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PRESIDENT WILSON MOVES TO PREVENT RAILROAD STRIKE

Has Appealed to Railroad Managers and Chiefs of Brotherhoods to Reopen Questions at Issue

A COMMISSION OF MEDIATORS NOW AT WORK

President Wilson Appealed to Patriotic Spirit of Both Parties to the Controversy—Chief Executive is Confident There Will be No Strike—He Sees No Good Reason Why Compromise is Not Possible—Should Strike be Called the New Haven Road is to Discontinue Its Sleepers and Dining Room Service and All Traveling Will be Done in Day Coaches.

Washington, March 16.—President Wilson today called upon the railroad managers and chiefs of the employees' brotherhoods to patriotic men to reopen the questions at issue between them and prevent a general interruption of national traffic "in this time of national peril."

Effort for Mediation.
The president's message, an appeal for adjustment of differences and a solemn protest against a strike, was sent after he and the cabinet had approved a proposal of the council of national defense that it send a commission to New York to undertake mediation between the railroads and their employees. At the same time, three of the four members of the committee—Secretaries Lane and Wilson, Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—started for New York to seek immediate conferences with representatives of both sides.

Gompers Missing.
Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, is the fourth member of the committee. It was understood at the White House that he had gone to New York with the committee, but it developed that he had been out of the city for two days and that Secretary Lane, entrusted with arrangements for the committee's trip, probably had been unable to reach him. Officials at the federation's headquarters, however, would not say where Mr. Gompers was but explained that he had been in touch with the brotherhood leaders from a point near New York. It was thought he would be back in the city tonight if he did not set there tonight.

President Confident of No Strike.
The president is confident that there will be no strike. However, he is already considering what may be done if his appeal to the patriotic spirit of the men involved is futile. Legal officers of the government are studying the problem to determine what measures will be lawful not only in an effort to keep food supplies and the mails moving, but to deal with an even more serious situation. The latter phase is being given only minor attention, however, as officials are satisfied that if it were called the loyalty of all the railroad men could be depended on.

The action of the president came with dramatic suddenness late this afternoon. The council of national defense, including in its membership several cabinet officers, had held a conference at the war department, and deciding that with the United States apparently at war, the calling of a railroad strike would be a national disaster, proposed the sending of mediators.

Called Cabinet Meeting.
Against the advice of his physician the president, just recovered from a cold which has kept him in bed for nearly two weeks, summoned a cabinet meeting and in a short decisive session, approved the course.

The president then sent his message to the representatives of the railroads and of the four brotherhoods. It follows:

President Wilson's Appeal.
"I deem it my duty and right to appeal to you in this time of national peril to open again the questions at issue between the railroads and their operatives with a view to accommodation or settlement by a committee of the council of national defense is about to seek a conference with you with that end in view.

"A general interruption of the railway traffic of the country at this time would entail a danger to the nation against which I have the right to enter my most solemn and earnest protest.

"It is now the duty of every patriotic man to bring matters of this sort to immediate accommodation. The safety of this country against manifest perils affecting its own peace and the peace of the whole world makes accommodation absolutely imperative and seems to me to render any other choice or action inconceivable. The president's message was sent to Elfisha Lee, chairman of the conference committee of railroad managers; L. Sheppard, acting head of the conductors; W. G. Lee, head of the trainmen; W. E. Stone, grand chief of the engineers; and W. S. Carter, president of the firemen and engine-men.

Formal word of the president that they had been selected to carry on the mediatory negotiations was contained in this message, sent by Secretary Baker, as chairman of the national defense council, to Secretaries Lane and Wilson, and Mr. Willard and Mr. Gompers.

Secretary Baker's Note.

"At a meeting of the council of national defense it was resolved that you be requested at once to seek an interview with the representatives of the railroad brotherhoods and railroad executives with reference to the differences now existing between them and apparently threatening to produce a general railway strike in the country that you present to the representatives of both sides the grave peril involved in such a situation at this time and that you request them to adjust their differences as in any

event to lead to a postponement of any acute difficulty during the present national emergency."

Prior to taking up the question with the national defense council, the president had been informed that the leaders of the employees and eyes were waiting in New York to see whether he would take action. He has been told of reports that some of the brotherhood members were not ready to abide by last year's strike vote.

Conference Not Improbable.
In the formal communications the government did not seek to lay blame for the present situation either on the railroad officials or on the brotherhoods. It is known, however, that the president believes that his intimate knowledge of the situation gained while trying to mediate himself last year, and his knowledge of the attitude of the railroad men, is a compromise is not possible.

All government officials believe that ultimately, through one agency or another, the railroad will have to accept the eight hour day. They believe that the commission headed by Major General Goethals, appointed by the president under the Adamson act, is fair and will settle equitably differences over the application of the eight hour day. While there have been no formal expressions on the subject, the calling of the strike without waiting for the settlement of the committee of the law has been generally condemned.

CONFERENCE OF MEDIATORS, BROTHERHOOD CHIEFS, RAILROAD MANAGERS.

New York, March 17.—The committee of managers headed by Elfisha Lee, its chairman, was called into the conference room with brotherhood representatives and mediators at 1:15 o'clock.

Secretaries Lane and Wilson and Daniel Willard, the mediators, were still in conference with the brotherhood chiefs and the railroad managers at 2:15 o'clock. The committee of the council of national defense named as a mediator, however, as arrived and no word had been received from him, so far as could be learned. No information had come from the conference room as to the effect of the deliberations and there was no indication that the meeting was nearing an end.

Secretary Lane sent word from the conference room at 2:30 o'clock that the brotherhood men had left but that the mediators were still in conference with the managers. He said no further statement would be made tonight.

NOTICE OF FREIGHT AND EXPRESS EMBARGOES ISSUED BY THE NEW HAVEN AND CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND RAILROADS.

New Haven, Conn., March 16.—Notice of freight and express embargoes in view of the railroad strike set for tomorrow night, were issued today by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad and the Central New England Railway companies. The notice reads:

"Effective at 5 p. m., this date, these companies will not accept freight of any kind, except milk, for points on or via these lines. This includes freight in cars, trucks, and other vehicles."

"No express will be received through the Grand Central terminal after 4 p. m. and from or via other points after 10 p. m."

The following notice was also issued today by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad relative to train service in case of a strike:

"Beginning 6 p. m. Saturday, provided the prospective strike order of the four brotherhoods of train and engine-men become effective, the passenger and freight service of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company will be subject to serious delay and curtailment.

"The passenger service is threatened by the calling out of the yardmen in the afternoon, involving a serious delay and curtailment. In connection with the discontinuance of service on other lines, freight service is an important factor in controlling operation of passenger trains.

"All freight and much express are being placed under embargo and the prospects for the continued handling of both are indefinite.

"The company will make every endeavor to operate such trains as it can. Patrons are advised of the probable entire suspension of yard and freight train service, curtailment of passenger service, involving a serious delay and curtailment, and less number of trains on such schedules as it may be practicable to establish under the probable discontinuance of limited trains."

N. H. ROAD TO DISCONTINUE SLEEPERS AND DINERS

All Passenger Traffic is to Be in Day Coaches.

New York, March 16.—The New Haven company announced yesterday that sleeping and dining car service would be discontinued tomorrow night and that all passenger traffic would be in day coaches.

Cabled Paragraphs

German Chancellor Visits Vienna.
Amsterdam, March 16, via London, 6:27 p. m.—A Vienna telegram reports the arrival of the German chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, who visited Emperor Charles, Foreign Minister Cernin and Premier Clam-Martinic of Austria.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN COURTHOUSE AT BOSTON

Two Persons Killed Are Believed to Have Been Responsible.

Boston, March 16.—Two bombs were exploded in the Suffolk County courthouse late today. The secrecy with which officials surrounded the affair and their exclusion of reporters led to reports that an assassination had been attempted.

Two persons were killed by the explosion, which occurred in a washroom in the second floor of the building, situated directly opposite police headquarters. A big hole was torn in the floor.

The two dead men were believed, from pieces of their clothing picked up, to have been soldiers.

The police admitted that their present theory was that there had been a premature explosion of a bomb or bombs while in the hands of the two men who were carrying them to the court room with murderous intent. This theory would place the responsibility on the men who were killed. A thorough search of the whole building for other bombs was begun at once. Police reserves were called to the square to handle a great and excited crowd that gathered quickly.

The state house was placed under heavy guard immediately after word had been received of the explosion at the Suffolk County courthouse. The corridors were patrolled and the guards had orders to stop and interrogate every person unknown to them personally.

OBREGON NOT LEADING OPPOSITION TO CARRANZA

Rumors Met With Emphatic Denial by Carranza Officials.

El Paso, Texas, March 16.—Rumors of a new political alignment in Mexico with General Alvaro Obregon leading the opposition to the government of General Carranza have been in circulation here since the last 24 hours, having been brought from the interior by Mexican and foreign refugees.

The rumors were emphatically denied by Carranza officials here today and it was claimed General Obregon is not leading the opposition to Carranza because of an affection of the throat and not because of any political differences.

Obregon's name has been linked with that of Felix Diaz in the rumors of the new revolutionary movement with Villa having a part in the movement in the north but this was doubted here. The German question is said to have played a part in the supposed movement, as Carranza's friendship for the Germans has caused a number of his leaders to turn against him, it was said here today.

PROTEST FROM ORGANIZED LABOR IN PORTO RICO

Claim American Officials Have Completely Ignored Labor.

Washington, March 16.—A violent protest from organized labor in Porto Rico, declaring that the labor of the new island government under the recent act of congress, the American officials have ignored the labor, while "capital reigns supreme" was received today at headquarters of the American Federation of Labor.

A "resident to Samuel Gompers, Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workers of Porto Rico, says the workers have to refuse their co-operation in the new government and "look to some other way of securing what is legitimately due them." Labor is not more fully recognized. After declaring that the "notorious Governor Yager and his gang of depraved politicians are crushing the hopes labor have held for extension of their rights under the new government, the letter appeals to the American Federation to aid in at least in a few steps to secure the labor of the island.

MURGUIA'S COMMAND DEFEATED BY VILLA

Succeeded in Capturing One of Three Troop Trains.

El Paso, Texas, March 16.—Francisco Villa decisively defeated General Murguia's command at the second battle of Rosario, Durango, Saturday, according to information received here today by government agents. After leading the de facto troops into an ambush, Villa succeeded in capturing one of three troop trains and killed and wounded hundreds of the Carranza troops, according to this report.

PRINTED EIGHT PAGES INSTEAD OF CUSTOMARY 24

St. Louis Post-Dispatch is Husbanded Its Paper Supply.

St. Louis, March 16.—Because of the threatened railway strike which would cut off the shipment of news print paper to St. Louis, the principal edition of the Post-Dispatch contained but eight pages today instead of the customary 24. The Post-Dispatch announced that this step was taken to conserve its paper supply.

Canadian Exports.

Ottawa, Ont., March 16.—Canadian exports for the first eleven months of the fiscal year, ending March 31, 1916, totaled \$1,028,969,000, and imports for the same period last year was \$1,028,969,000. The figures are exclusive of coal and bullion and the re-export of foreign merchandise.

No Cessation in British Advance

TAKE GERMAN TRENCHES ON A FRONT OF 3,000 YARDS

IN PIERRE VAAST WOOD

Another British Torpedo Boat Destroyer Has Been Sunk in English Channel—Struck a Mine—It Is Believed 29 of the Crew Were Lost.

Continuing their attack on the German lines in the center of the Somme region, British troops have gained further successes. Almost all of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood, the scene of previous heavy battles between French and German forces, has been occupied, says the official statement from the British war office.

German trenches on a front of 3,000

New York Heartily Welcomes Gerard

FORMER AMBASSADOR SAYS WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF WAR

URGES PREPAREDNESS

Declares Germany Has 12,000,000 Men Under Arms—He Would be Willing to Lead a Regiment of German-Americans in Event of War.

New York, March 16.—If war comes with Germany, James W. Gerard, former ambassador to that country, would be willing to lead a regiment of German-Americans, he said, upon his arrival here today at the close of his journey of 7,231 miles from Berlin by way of Switzerland, Spain, Cuba, Florida and Washington. A citizens committee appointed by Mayor Mitch-

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Me hearts beating light an' me lips top apart,
An' me auld eyes they sparkle again;
For me ears hear the tune that sings in me heart,
'Tis the music of 'Erin's Refrain.'

Me thoughts travel back to the cot 'neath the hill,
An' I sit by the turf fire bright;
An' mother's love song to me heart brings a thrill,
Shure it fills the auld home with delight.

O memory dear! It's kind that ye are
To bring it all home to me here;
The scenes all come flooding back from afar
To warm me auld heart with their cheer.

Again to 'The Pipes' we dance on the green,
By the side of the Colleen so fair;
With all of the countryside watching the scene—
Shure we dance—the 'we' thro' upon air.

The 'Wake an' the Fair,' the 'Fun an' the Fight,'
Oh! The days of me youth—far away;
In you 'Erin Dear,' 'sweet land of delight'
I am living them over today.

With a tear and a sigh for the time that is past,
An' a prayer for the future to be;
That the bright star of freedom is rising at last
On my dear native isle o'er the sea.

—JOHN DOWNING

yards north and south of the wood also were taken, the communication adds. The St. Pierre Vaast Wood lies about midway between Bapaume and positions north of Peronne.

A German attack on a British post northeast of the Somme, London says, was repulsed. Berlin reports numerous German raids on the Anche, Somme and other sectors in France, from which prisoners were brought in.

French Making Progress.

French troops continue to make progress on both sides of the Aisne. In Champagne the French carried out a surprise attack east of the Butte de Souain.

Renewed activity in Macedonia in the region of Monastir is reported by Berlin, which says the French attacked east of that town and were successful in entering German trenches, but at only one point, being beaten off elsewhere.

Turks Continue to Retreat.

While the British troops are advancing up the sides of the Aisne, Russian troops have occupied a height west of Kermanshah, Persia. British forces have taken part of the town of Bagdad and on the main road to Kermanshah. The Turkish forces continue their retreat on the right bank of the Tigris from Bagdad.

German airplanes have renewed their attacks on southeastern England. London announces, and bombs have been dropped in the county of Kent. A German airplane previously dropped bombs at Westgate.

British Destroyer Sunk.

Another British torpedo boat destroyer has been sunk as a result of striking a mine in the English channel. It is believed that 29 of the crew were lost in the disaster.

AIR RAID ON SOUTHEASTERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND

Bombs Were Dropped in Kent—Raid Is Still in Progress.

London, March 17, 12:35 a. m.—An air raid on the southeastern counties of England took place last night and was still in progress early this morning, according to an official communication issued at 12:30 o'clock. Bombs were dropped on Kent. The official statement says:

"Hostile airships attacked the southeastern counties last night. Bombs have been dropped in the county Kent. The raid is still in progress. A further communication will be issued during the morning."

FRENCH CABINET WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED

Various Departments Are to Be Restored to Their Old Status.

Paris, March 16, 11:50 p. m.—The French cabinet will be reconstructed. Premier Briand, it is understood, in addition to replacing General Lyautey, the former minister of war, will have the departments, which had been combined under one minister, restored to their former status. It is expected that the premier will be able to submit the names of the new ministers to President Poincare tomorrow.

PRELIMINARY COMMITTEE OF RUSSIAN AMERICANS

Formed in New York to Cooperate With New Government in Russia.

New York, March 16.—Prominent members of the Russian colony in this city met today and formed a "preliminary committee of Russian Americans" to co-operate with the new government in Russia.

The first work of the committee, said a statement issued after the meeting, "will be to take over all the diplomatic and official Russian government affairs here, once the sanction has been obtained from the Duma, the council of the empire and various ministries. So far it acts merely as the advisory board of the new government. It has a certain public sanction which can only be explained later."

Among those who attended the meeting were Ivan Narodnik, Ivan Okunief and Joseph Dainda, all of them Russian journalists.

OBITUARY.

Ferdinand W. Roebeling.
Trenton, N. J., March 16.—Ferdinand W. Roebeling, Sr., 75 years old, widely known in the wire rope industry, died today. He was secretary-treasurer of the John A. Roebeling Sons company.

Condensed Telegrams

The New York senate, by a vote of 21 to 13, passed the literacy test bill.

Military training in the six public schools of St. Louis will begin Monday.

Zenas Ferry Moody, governor of Oregon from 1882 to 1886, died at Salem, Ore.

The third strike of longshoremen in the the month has begun at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The appointment of Brig.-Gen. Hunt-Liggett, to be major-general was confirmed by the senate.

The Empire City Subway company, Ltd. of New York, increased its capital from \$6,000,000 to \$7,500,000.

One man was killed in an explosion at the Hadley yards of the du Pont Powder Works at Wilmington, Del.

One man was killed and 14 others injured when the boiler of the tugboat Geierland exploded at The Hague.

More than 700 persons were forced to the streets, scantily clad, by a fire which destroyed the Hotel Rossiya, at Los Angeles, Cal.

William Valonsky, of Spring Valley, N. Y., was sentenced to serve ten years in prison for a second offense for highway robbery.

The weekly statement of the Bank of France shows an increase of 11,870,000 francs in gold and a decrease of 1,716,000 francs in silver.

John J. Selby, chief officer of the Leyland Line steamship Devonian, received the Massachusetts Humane Society's silver medal for heroism.

The British Board of Trade figures for February show that imports during the month increased \$1,000,000 and that exports increased \$4,760,000.

Judge Chambers of the United States Board of Mediation and Conciliation, called at the White House to discuss the threatened railroad strike.

The senate confirmed the nomination of former Representative Raymond Stevens of New Hampshire to be a member of the Federal Shipping board.

Beginning of work on a new union railway system at St. Paul, Minn., cost \$11,000,000, was celebrated with a parade of citizens in carnival costume.

Reports of heavy fighting between Mexican troops and Villa bandits at Toluca, 40 miles west of Santa Anna, were received at the war department.

Embargo at 1:30 p. m. yesterday the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway put an embargo on livestock, perishable freight of all descriptions and explosives.

The Eastern Steamship Lines, Inc., yesterday placed an embargo on all freight, via New York or Boston for connecting rail, or water and rail carriers, effective at once.

The Meyer bill, to authorize the governor to compel registration of all foreigners in the state was passed favorably by the New York Assembly Judiciary committee.

The senate confirmed the nomination of John Franklin Fort, ex-governor of New Jersey, and William B. Coleman of St. Paul, to be members of the Federal Trade commission.

A bill designed to give Governor Edgewood the authority to make an adjournment of the legislature to use the state's resources in case of war, was passed by the New Jersey senate.

Two sailors of the interned German raider Kronprinz Wilhelm at the Philadelphia yard, were shot and wounded by United States marines during a fight on the deck of the vessel.

A general order was issued by the Chesapeake and Ohio railway at Newport News, Va., declaring an absolute embargo on freight shipments in anticipation of the threatened railway strike.

Diplomatic representatives of the United States are negotiating with neutrals of Europe the question as to whether American armed merchantmen are to be permitted to enter neutral ports.

Major-General John J. Pershing, commander of the southern department, was invited to attend a luncheon to be given in Juarez Monday night by General Jose Carlos Murguia's saint day.

The Canadian government has received word that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, meeting at Regina, has decided that the whole wheat crop of Canada shall be taken for the British government.

Advanced wages demanded some time ago by telegraphers employed on the Chicago Great Western, Illinois Central, Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago & Alton, and Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroads have been granted.

Sergeant Major Roosevelt Winans, United States Marine corps, decorated with the medal of honor, the highest award of merit given to American soldiers or sailors. He gets it for heroism in a fight with rebels in Santo Domingo.

Episcopal clergy of the western Massachusetts diocese have passed resolutions offering their services to the governor for any service he may ask for state or nation, and President Wilson for his firm stand in international crisis.

END OF THE ROMANOFF DYNASTY IN RUSSIA.

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch Has Abdicated.

Petrograd, March 16, 5:30 p. m., via London, March 17, 3:14 a. m.—Emperor Nicholas abdicated at midnight last night on behalf of himself and his heirs-apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon Grand Duke Michael himself abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end.

Order Supplanting Chaos in Russia

MEMBERS OF NEW MINISTRY ASSUME POSTS

MONARCHY ABOLISHED

Executive Department of the Government Has Been Placed in the Hands of Twelve Men—Messages of Allegiance Are Pouring In.

Petrograd, via London, March 16, 9:55 p. m.—Russia today appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which, perhaps, any nation was ever confronted. Order was growing with increasing rapidity out of the chaos of the past week and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of Russia's municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.

New Ministry at Work.

The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open to official business. The banks, all the commercial and industrial houses and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to affect as quick a recovery as possible from the new government, gathering up the broken threads of Russia's municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.

Messages of Allegiance.
Hundreds of messages have been received from all over the country, declaring the allegiance of important cities and fortresses to the new regime. Moscow, Kharkov, Tseretyn and Volodga already have formally acknowledged the new government and, so far as is known, not a single quarter of the country still stands out for the old order of things. Supported by unanimous vote, the present government is in reality a government of the people.

Full Agreement Reached.

According to the latest information, the executive committee of the Duma and the committees of soldiers and workmen's deputies have reached a full agreement, or at least have decided to temporarily suspend all differences until the meeting of the constitutional assembly, which decides just what form the new government of Russia will take. Meanwhile, it is reported that the government of the country will last three months in the hands of a committee of twelve men, of whom the monarchy, for the time being will be abolished.

ADDRESS BY NEW RUSSIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Says New Government Will Issue a Decree of Full Amnesty.

London, March 16, 8 p. m.—Addressing an assemblage of thousands of soldiers and civilians from the gallery of the lobby of the Duma, Deputy Kerenkoff, minister of justice, according to a Reuters despatch from Petrograd dated today, announced that the provisional government took office by virtue of its agreement with workmen's and soldiers' delegates. The council of these delegates will be composed of all the several hundred votes to fifteen. The first act of the new government, Mr. Kerenkoff declared, has been the immediate publication of a decree of amnesty. Continuing, the despatch adds, the minister of justice said: "Our comrades of the old regime and fourth Dumas who were banished illegally to the tundras of Siberia will be released forthwith. In my jurisdiction are all the prisoners of conscience of the old regime. They will answer before the law for all crimes against the people. Many voices in the crowd are reported to have exclaimed: "Comrades," added Mr. Kerenkoff, "regenerated Russia will not have recourse to the shameful methods utilized by the tsarist regime. Without trial men will be condemned. All prisoners will be tried in open court."

"Comrades! Soldiers! Citizens! All men are equal before the law. The government will be published. Soldiers, I ask you to co-operate. Free Russia is now born and none will succeed in restoring liberty from the hands of the people. Do not listen to the promptings of the agents of the old regime. Listen to your officers. Long live free Russia!"

The speech was greeted by a storm of cheering.

The speaker's leader, Chikhelidze, addressing officers and soldiers, paid a glowing tribute to the soldiers and workmen who had participated in accomplishing the revolution. He recounted, the despatch says, the recent provocative efforts by the secret police in publishing proclamations regarding the murders of officers by soldiers. He exhorted the soldiers to regard their officers as citizens who had helped raise the revolutionary flag and as brothers in the great cause of Russian liberty. Subsequently officers, soldiers and workmen carried Mr. Chikhelidze on their shoulders through a cheering throng of soldiers and civilians.

FLETCHER HOLDS RECEPTION IN MEXICO CITY

Also Met Representatives of Protestant Churches.

Mexico City, March 16.—Henry P. Fletcher, the American ambassador to Mexico, held his first diplomatic reception today. He also met the representatives of Protestant churches through a cheering throng of soldiers and civilians. The ambassador told the representatives that the constitution and its provisions, which were made by a properly constituted body, superseded all treaties with foreign countries as those treaties were based on provisions of the old constitution. As a result, he said, questions regarding the administration of church property now came only within the scope of diplomatic negotiations.